The introduced flora of Crater Lake National Park

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Previous to the year 1896, very few people had visited Crater Lake. This fact, together with its isolation from the main lines of travel, caused the flora of the immediate vicinity of the Lake to be almost entirely of native species.

In August, 1896, Frederick V. Coville spent seven days with the Mazama Mountain Climbing Club of Portland Oregon, botanizing the region. He published a list of his plants in Mazama Vol. I. No. 2, 1896. Speaking of *Rumex Acetosella* L., he says, "This, the only introduced plant seen at Crater Lake, was found sparingly near the upper camping place."

The localities studied by Coville and his collecting companion, John B. Leiberg, were the ravine of Pole Bridge Creek, along the road from this point to the Rim of Crater Lake, along the Rim as far east as a point midway between Applegate Peak and Castle Crest, as far west as the Watchman and Red Cone, down the outer slope of the crater south of the Watchman to the line of springs at its base, down Anna Creek about one and a quarter miles from the Rim, down the inner slope of the Crater to the water's edge, and on Wizard Island.

In the seven days between August 13 and August 20, it was not possible for him to make a complete survey, but the single introduced species noted above indicates that at that time very little change in the native flora had taken place.

The writer spent several summers in carrying out an intensive botanical survey of the Park. A number of introduced species was discovered. It is to be expected since about 150,000 people visit the Park each summer, most of them driving their cars from every part of the United States, that the number of accidentally introduced species would continually increase. The list which follows is complete for the introduced species to the end of 1930 in so far as the author's collections go.

Rumex Acetosella L. This very widely distributed weed was the first to establish itself at Crater Lake. It was first noted in 1896.

Chenopodium album L. This plant first came to Crater Lake in horse feed freighted in during the governmental construction

activities. It was copiously established about the horse barns near Park Headquarters in 1928.

Phleum pratense L. Imported horse feed probably first brought this grass. First noted in 1928.

Dactylis glomerata L. Like the preceding, probably introduced in imported horse feed. First noted in 1929.

Bromus inermis Leyss. Also probably introduced in horse feed. First noted in 1929.

Spergularia rubra (L). Presl. var. perennans (Greene) Robinson. There is some doubt concerning the nativity of this plant. Greene holds it to be a native of Europe, while Jepson maintains it to be a native of western America. At all events, it became well established about Park Headquarters in 1929.

Rumex crispus L. This is the latest newcomer to the Park. A solitary plant has grown for two seasons near the office buildings at Park Headquarters. At this altitude of 6600 feet, the very upper edge of the Canadian Life Zone is this latitude, it does not seem to set fertile seeds and will consequently soon become extinct. It was first seen in 1929.

Agropyron repens (L.) Beauv. A few plants of this species were found at the Lost Creek Ranger Station where horses had been tethered the previous year. First noted in 1929.

During 1930, an attempt to landscape the immediate vicinity of the Lodge was made. Grass seed of several species were sown. It is probable that future observations will show several species of grass and weeds introduced at that time.

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